

Santa Fe Art Institute

For immediate release
January 27, 2006

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“Before You Can Walk: Crawl Santa Fe 2006” Performance and Fundraiser by William Pope.L and the Santa Fe Community WHEN: March 4, 2006 1pm

WHO: Internationally known performance artist, William Pope.L in partnership with the Santa Fe Art Institute and in collaboration with the Center for Contemporary Arts, the Institute for American Indian Arts, the IAIA Museum, the Santa Fe Public Schools ¡ADELANTE! Program, and the New Mexico Museum of Fine Arts.

WHAT: A community performance piece and fundraiser to celebrate the diversity and contradictions of Santa Fe via one act of struggle: a mass crawl around the plaza area. Proceeds from this event will benefit the Santa Fe Public Schools ¡ADELANTE! Program. The ¡ADELANTE! Program strengthens educational opportunities for homeless children and youth.



WHERE: We will meet and organize at the IAIA Museum at 1pm, perform the crawl around the plaza, and return to the IAIA Museum for a reception following the performance.

GOAL: To connect the diverse populations and unearth the complex history of Santa Fe via one simple, significant action of struggle to achieve a common end: to create connections between we strangers who live next door to each other.

WHY CONNECTION IS IMPORTANT: People must work together to be truly social beings. People are not people unless they are people together. Engaging history, we decide how we want to live together. We decide what courage and imagination we want to bring to our life-project together.

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The Santa Fe Art Institute, an independent educational non-profit organization founded in 1985, is committed to programs that nurture artists and enhance and promote the arts as an essential element of American culture and society. Visit our website at www.sfai.org.



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WHY CRAWL: Everyone has to crawl before they walk. Even so, it is also true that when people achieve a certain status, they may feel they are more important than another person. The rich look down on the poor. The beautiful look down on the plain. The powerful look down on the weak. But status is fleeting. Crawling brings us back to basics. We crawl, as small children, not because we feel humiliated but because we are learning to be human. Crawling is a way to remind ourselves of our common struggle to be human.

WHY FUNDRAISING: This is a way to extend the positive effects of the performance out into the community beyond the specific event on March 4. By selecting the ¡ADELANTE! Program we have made a connection between our history and the plague of homelessness that racks our city today. As a community, we will sacrifice something in order to give to someone else - whether that sacrifice be the time we take to participate in the crawl or through monetary contributions - to give to a program that supports homeless children's education, in hopes that they will lead our community tomorrow. If you would like to make a contribution, but cannot make it to the performance, please contact the Santa Fe Art Institute, or write a check to the Youth Works Homeless Fund and send it to C/O the Santa Fe Art Institute P.O. Box 24044 Santa Fe, NM 87502

WHY BEFORE YOU WALK: CRAWL SANTA FE 2006: Today, our community has many facets. We are an old, historical city that holds onto its past and simultaneously is on the cutting edge of contemporary thinking. We are a city of the poor and of the wealthy, of the politically conservative and the radical. We are a city that has very deep roots in the land and yet is populated by transients. By crawling the plaza, we re-visit our community's struggle by symbolically re-staging the journey that got us here, literally, across the very same ground. The crawl allows participants and viewers to question the roots of our political and social realities, and to see and understand our familiar streets from a new perspective. Through this community event we will examine how our past has created the beautiful, complicated and contradictory city we know today.

WHAT KIND OF HELP DO WE NEED TO PREPARE FOR THE CRAWL: Crawlers will be expected to provide their own protective gear. It's your contribution to the event. Think about it: crawling the sidewalks and stairs of Santa Fe will require elbow pads, knee pads, gloves, an extra layer across the chest and any other protective gear you think you may need. We are also in need of support staff - people who will handout water to the crawlers and information to the bystanders. Most of all, we need you! Whoever you are, whether you want to crawl or not, please come out and support this worthy cause.